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impoverishment was over-population. On the correctness of that assumption the argumentative justification of the Union—*i.e.*, the English—government's policy stands or falls. With exhaustive completeness the author shows the assumption to have been false. Between 1800 and 1850 Ireland, he finds, in relation to its actual and possible agricultural resources, was not over-populated. The array of official and unofficial evidence brought to bear upon the point is overwhelming, and, in its effect, final. No writer need advert hereafter to Ireland's population during these five decades without taking into account the refutation of the orthodox view that Dr. O'Brien here sets forth (part I., Agricultural Resources).

In part II. and part III., industry and public finance are discussed, but with deductions which are not unfamiliar. The student of the period will welcome, nevertheless, the skill with which Dr. O'Brien explains the interconnection of agricultural resources with industry, and of both with banking credit; of population with land laws, of ejectment acts with the franchise; in short, the interconnection of all economic phenomena. The unity of Ireland's economic history thus obtained makes this a desirable book of reference.

In the course of his arguments on over-population Dr. O'Brien prefers a charge which, in the judgment of the reviewer, casts an untoward reflection where it is not deserved, and which rests upon no substantiation beyond the author's *ipse dixit*. The sacrifice of souls which the orthodox view of over-population involved was ghastly enough; but Dr. O'Brien lays the direct responsibility for the tragedy upon the English government. It is at least debatable whether or not responsibility can be concentrated in such a melodramatic way. Contemporary statesmen who could do little more than follow public opinion, were expected to accept enlightenment from prevailing schools of economic thought. Were they therefore accountable for these schools? Was Liverpool or Melbourne or Peel or Russell personally responsible for the doctrine of *laissez-faire*, or for the public opinion that expected the classical economy to prove as advantageous to Ireland as to Great Britain? Surely a more catholic view would not carry the ethics of official responsibility to such length!

C. E. FRYER.

The Economic Development of France and Germany, 1815-1914.

By J. H. CLAPHAM, Litt.D., Fellow of King's College. (Cambridge: University Press. 1921. Pp. xi, 420. 18s.)

IN this book the author presents the substance of lectures which he has for some years given at Cambridge. He has, in the first part of the book, used some of the material in the chapter contributed by him to volume X. of the *Cambridge Modern History*, but has added a second and larger part, covering the period 1848-1914, which is entirely new. In each part he has followed the plan of treating separately the agrarian and the in-

dustrial history of each of the two countries, making eight chapters, and has inserted five more chapters on the commerce, communications, and credit institutions of the two countries, treating them more or less together.

Clapham's book does not cover so great an extent in time or in territory as Ogg's *Economic Development of Modern Europe*, which is most like it, of books that have previously appeared in English. It is considerably more rich in detailed statements of concrete fact than is Ogg's book. On the other hand it is necessarily more brief in its description of economic development than a work covering an equal period of time but limited to one country, like Sartorius von Waltershausen's *Deutsche Wirtschaftsgeschichte*. The field is so important, and has as yet been so little surveyed by scholars aiming to give a comprehensive account of economic progress, that a variety of treatment is highly desirable, and every contribution is welcome.

The outstanding advantage of the book is the opportunity which it offers to readers of English to study the economic history of the two states of the Continent which have in the recent period held the positions of greatest importance. For mature students, seeking a condensed but substantial account, it is by far the best book either on France or on Germany. The author shows the scholarly qualities that have distinguished his work in English economic history and organization: a wide acquaintance with the literature, critical and constructive ability, an agreeable style. The points which the reviewer noted for criticism are mere details in a book close packed with facts, and testify in his opinion to the general reliability of the work. P. 35, Slavic historians do not accept Meitzen's explanation of village forms (*cf. Hist. Zeitschrift*, 1913, CXI. 611); p. 120, Thernaux's ready-made clothes shop was not the first in Paris by at least fifty years (*cf. the advertisement*, 1770, by a Parisian tailor employing a number of workmen, of "un magasin d'habits neufs tout faits, de toutes espèces, de toutes tailles", quoted by Sombart, *Luxus und Kapitalismus*, p. 192, from Franklin); p. 125, the Bank of France was founded in 1800, not 1808; p. 130, the number of joint-stock companies credited to the period before 1800 appears to be much below Schmoller's estimate of several hundred (*cf. Jahrbuch f. Gesetzgebung*, 1893, XVII. 984); p. 136, Jackson's war on the U. S. Bank was before, not after, 1837. To say of the German department stores, p. 368, that "their history has not been written" is a sweeping statement, when so much has been written about Wertheim's and other stores. It is easier to forgive slips of this kind than it is to excuse the omission, from a book obviously intended for serious students, of a bibliography more systematic than that provided in the preface. The lack of such a guide will be felt the more as there are almost no references to authorities to aid the reader who desires to check a statement or to amplify the information contained in the text.

The author's plan of treating in one volume the economic history of two neighboring countries offers an opportunity to draw contrasts and parallels, and is well adapted to a philosophical study of the elements in economic progress. The author is not, however, inclined to generalize; he does so admirably sometimes, but prefers for the most part plain matter of fact. Under these conditions it is unfortunate that he has chosen to intersperse his chapters on France and Germany, so that, for example, a chapter on French industrial conditions is preceded by one on German rural conditions and followed by one on German industrial conditions; and the student who seeks to study recent French commercial policy finds it treated in two chapters separated by a chapter on rural Germany. Arguments that can be advanced for this arrangement lose their force if full advantage is not taken of the opportunity to apply the comparative method.

CLIVE DAY.

Le Courier de M. Thiers. Par DANIEL HALÉVY. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 1921. Pp. 512. 20 fr.)

THE editor of this book, M. Halévy, explains in a brief preface that when he began his work, his purpose was merely to select and edit some interesting texts, that however he soon found that he would be obliged to explain those texts and show their connection with each other by means of notes, and that after he had finished his work he found that he had almost written a biography, but not quite. He wishes his book to be judged, not as a biography but as a collection of Thiers's correspondence, lighted up by notes on the facts mentioned and by the conversation or comment of contemporaries.

As an editor it would be difficult to imagine M. Halévy's superior. He has all the qualities an editor must have and several others which are not obligatory but are pleasing and advantageous. His notes are as interesting as the rest of the contents of the book and this is saying a great deal. Not only are they thoroughly informed but they show a fine reserve, a tact and judgment, a piquant irony never overdone, and a literary deftness and flavor eminently fitted to beguile away the classic ennui of the book reviewer.

The documents here given to the world, letters to and from Thiers and covering a period of more than fifty years, are from the manuscripts department of the National Library. These documents had undergone a process of careful selection before ever they were confided to that public repository. They were designed to make known, as the editor points out, "not Thiers, but Monsieur Thiers" (a very different personage) as Thiers himself, and particularly as Mademoiselle Dosne, his diligent and loyal sister-in-law and heir, wished him to be known. Thus many letters from or to the great man which might militate against the realization of the effect desired were suppressed by these interested censors and history